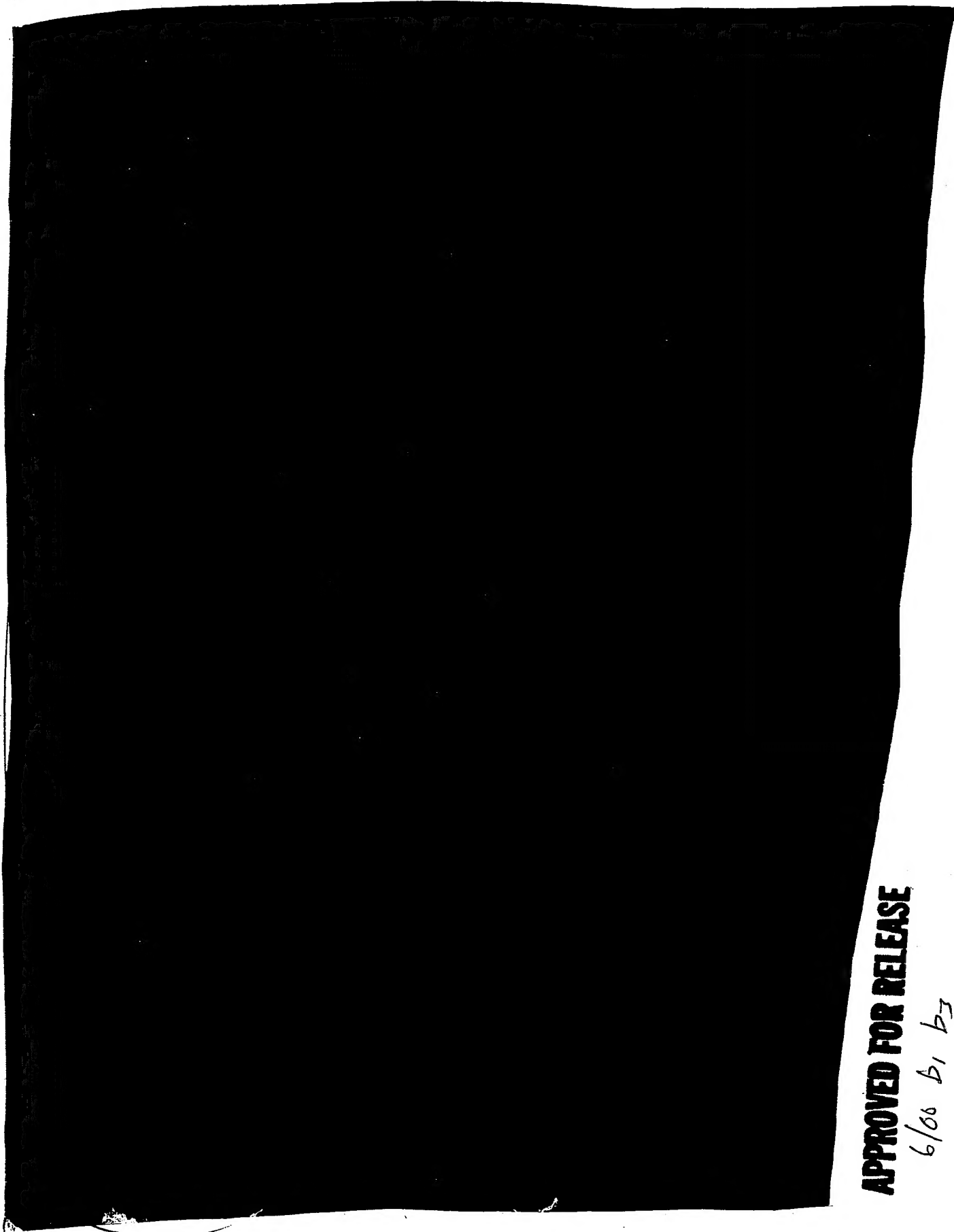


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[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF OCPAS MEAB 94/131 FOR 07 JUNE 1994.

[REDACTED]

1. IRAQ: AZIZ ADVOCATES PATIENT DIPLOMACY

[REDACTED]

1. IRAQ: AZIZ ADVOCATES PATIENT DIPLOMACY
AT A NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AZIZ EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MOMENTUM AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IS NOW WITH COUNTRIES SEEKING TO EASE SANCTIONS, BUT HE WARNED AGAINST "EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM" THAT THERE WILL BE DRAMATIC PROGRESS IN THE SHORT RUN.

-- AZIZ CLAIMED THAT A MAJORITY OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL--CHINA, FRANCE, AND RUSSIA--WANT TO EASE THE SANCTIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF

OTHER COUNTRIES SUPPORT THIS STANCE.

-- HE ALSO SAID THE US ALONE CANNOT FORESTALL AN EVENTUAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. //AZIZ IS COUNTERING ARGUMENTS BY HARDLINERS PROBABLY, INCLUDING SADDAM'S SON UDAY, THAT WASHINGTON WILL VETO ANY SECURITY COUNCIL MOVE TO EASE SANCTIONS.//

IT HAS BEEN RUMORED THAT UN INSPECTIONS CHIEF EKEUS MIGHT ANNOUNCE THE COMPLETION OF A LONG-TERM MONITORING REGIME FOR IRAQI WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROGRAMS NEXT MONTH, AND AZIZ SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE DECISIVE. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IRAQ MUST BE PREPARED

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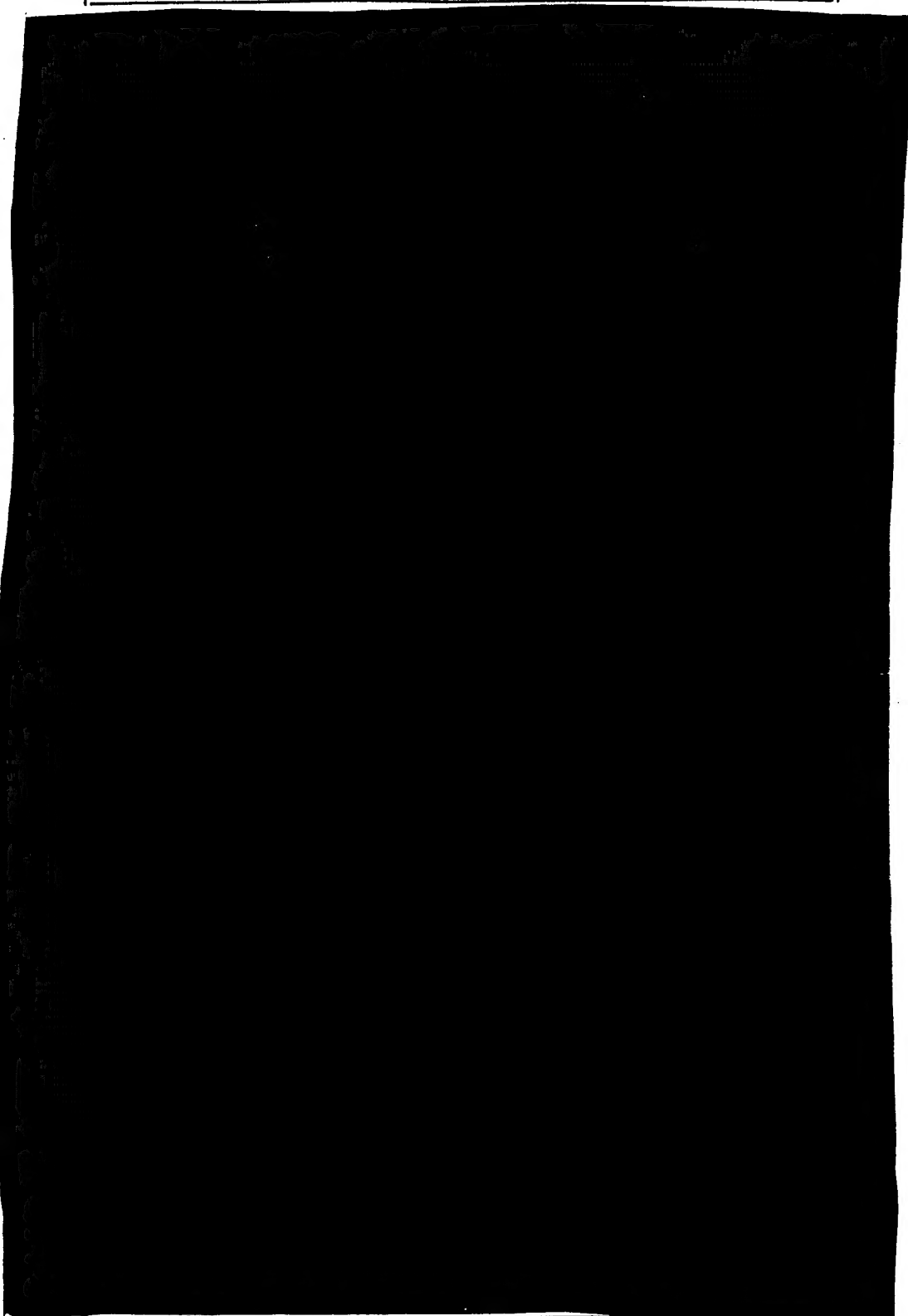
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FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES AND CAUTIONED AGAINST PINNING HOPES ON SPECIFIC DATES.

[REDACTED]

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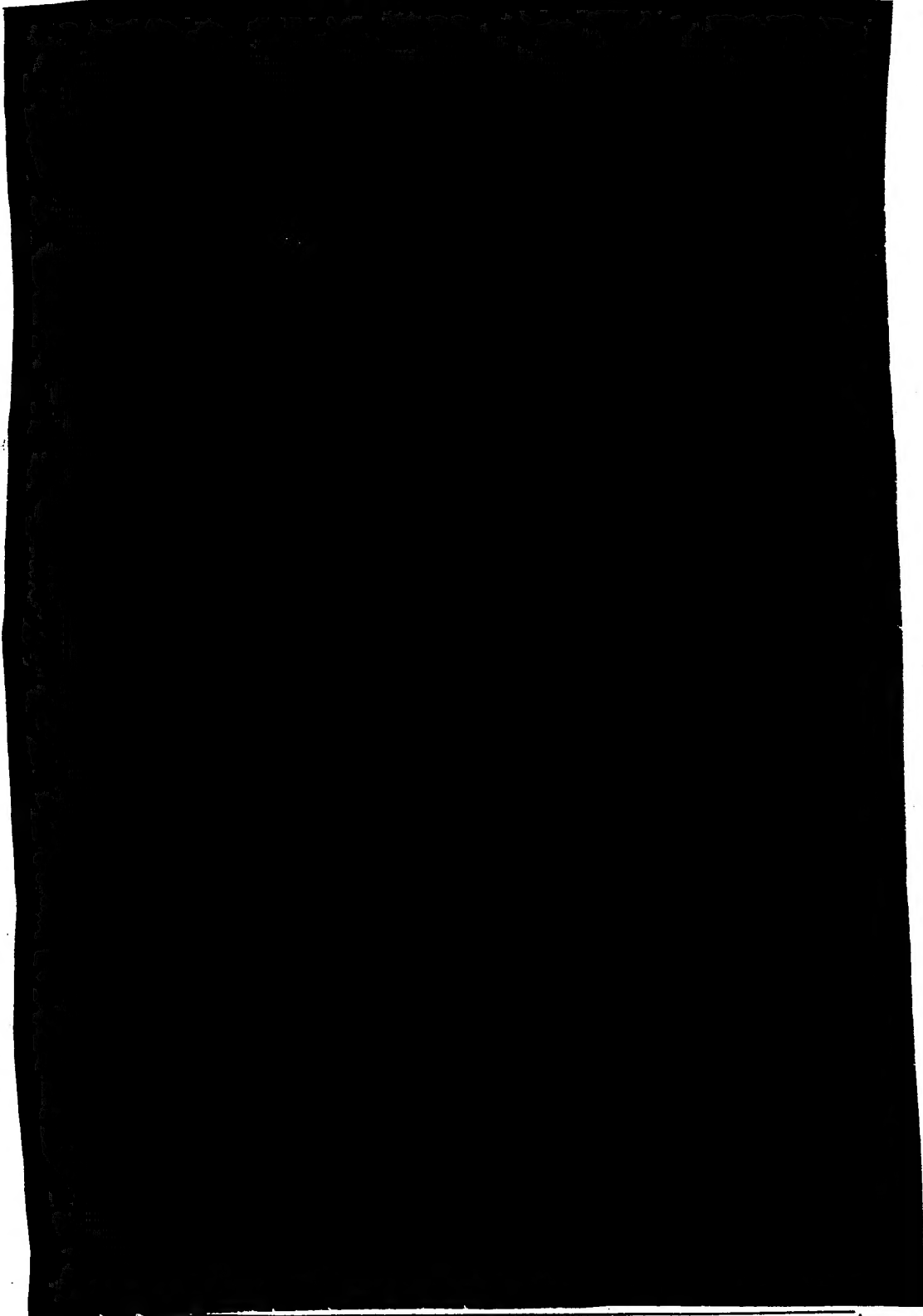
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